

Private
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON JOINT INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Attendance

Aislinn Kottwitz	X
Amber	E
McReynolds	
Blanca Uzeta	X
O'Leary	
Constance	X
Hass	
Danny Moore	E
Elizabeth	X
Wilkes	
Gary Horvath	X
Heather Barry	X
Hunter Barnett	*
Jason Kelly	X
John Buckley	X
Jolie Brawner	X
JulieMarie	
Shepherd	X
Macklin	
Kevin Fletcher	E
Lori Schell	X
Martha	X
Coleman	
Moussa	*
Diawara	
Paula Espinoza	X
Robin	X
Schepper	
Samuel	*
Greenidge	
Simon Tafoya	X
William Leone	X
Carlos Perez	X
Carly Hare	X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Hearing Items Action Taken

Expand All Items

Collapse All Items

12:04:48 PM

Chair Buckley gave opening remarks and introduced the informational video on redistricting.

12:24:07 PM

Lois Landgraf, representing self, testified. She handed out a map that she had also submitted online (Attachment A). She spoke on her proposed state House and Senate districts and how they keep communities of interest together.

12:25:40 PM

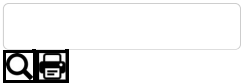
Candi Boyer, representing self, testified. She testified that El Paso County needs to be kept whole as it preserves communities of interest in the area. Commissioner Brawner explained that El Paso County is too big for one Congressional District and asked what part of the county would be the preferred part to be separated.

12:28:58 PM

Ms. Teresa Cheek, representing self, testified. She asked that the Fountain Valley area be kept together in the State House District and voiced support for Ms. Landgraf's submitted map.

12:30:05 PM

Dr. Douglas Sharp, representing self, testified. He stated that southeastern Colorado Springs is a community of interest and has not received the economic development the rest of the city has.



12:34:17 PM

Mr. Pete Healey, representing self, testified. He asked that the commission keep Montezuma County whole and asked that all comments for competitive districts be ignored.

12:38:02 PM

Colorado Springs City Councilman Wayne Williams, representing the people of Colorado Springs, testified. He asked that existing precinct lines be followed as much as possible. He also asked that growth in areas be considered when drawing districts. Commissioners asked follow-up questions on how El Paso County connects with the surrounding counties.

12:46:25 PM

Mrs. Sharon Thompson, representing self, testified. She voiced support for the Landgraf map and spoke on communities to keep together in the area.

12:48:51 PM

Mr. Patrick Davis, representing self, testified. He testified that the west side of Colorado Springs is a community of interest centered around public safety from previous fires.

12:52:13 PM

Cherish St Denis, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous testimony on keeping Colorado Springs whole as much as possible

12:54:19 PM

Mrs. Sheryl Glasgow, representing El Paso County Republicans, testified. She asked for district number changes to be simplified.

12:57:52 PM

Ms. Pamela Shaddock, representing self, testified. She testified on how cities that are connected through transportation districts should be considered communities of interest. Commissioners asked follow-up questions on the community and economic development in the area.

01:00:41 PM

Amanda Gonzalez, representing Colorado Common Cause, testified. She stated that Colorado Common Cause had submitted maps online and stated that their maps strive to preserve the rights of communities of color.

01:15:57 PM

Amy Stephens, representing self, testified. She submitted a proposed State Senate District Map (Attachment B). She spoke on her proposed changes in the map and how they fit the qualifications of competitiveness and compactness.

01:20:01 PM

Mr. Hank Bond, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous testimony that eastern El Paso County should be considered as the area to leave out of CD5.

01:21:45 PM

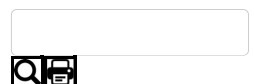
Ms. Kay Rendleman, representing self, testified. She testified that the community in El Paso County is a community of interest around the military bases and the challenges that military families face.

01:25:37 PM

Mr. Longinos Gonzalez, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous testimony that eastern El Paso County is the preferred area to be removed for a congressional district. He also voiced support for the Landgraf House map as a starting point.

01:31:08 PM

Ms. Katherine Czukas, representing self, testified. She testified on state Senate Districts 11 and 12 and spoke on why the western part of Colorado Springs is a community of interest.



01:34:54 PM

Miss Mischa Smith, representing self, testified. She asked that state House District 17 and the city of Colorado Springs be kept whole. She testified on how state House District 17 is one of the strongest communities of color outside of Denver.

01:41:26 PM

Mrs. Donna Smith, representing self, testified. She stated support for previous testimony that state House District 17 is a minority community of interest and asked that it be kept whole in new maps.

01:45:28 PM

Mr. Dan Lundy, representing self, testified. He stated support for Mr. Patrick Davis' testimony and asked that the west side of Colorado Springs be kept whole.

01:48:24 PM

Dr. Aleta You, representing self, testified. She testified that Douglas County should be kept whole as it creates more competitive districts.

01:53:30 PM

Joie Ha, representing Asian American & Pacific Islander American Communities, testified. She asked that the commission consider the AAPI community of interest when drawing maps. She shared cities and business districts she would like to see kept whole in districts. Commissioners asked follow up questions on AAPI issues at the federal level.

01:56:08 PM

President Pro Tem; Richard Skorman, representing the Colorado Springs City Council, District 3, testified. He testified on how the city of Colorado Springs has attempted to connect downtown Colorado Springs to Manitou Springs and the western part of town.

02:04:48 PM

Mr. Arthur Glynn, representing self, testified. He repeated previous testimony to remove eastern El Paso County from CD5 if needed to meet population requirements.

02:07:48 PM

Woodrow Longmire, representing self, testified. He testified on the importance of the diversity in the community and the strong education system.

02:10:16 PM

Kevin Walker, representing self, testified. He submitted a state Senate district map (Attachment C) and spoke about changes he would like to see in state House Districts 11 and 12.

02:13:47 PM

Mr. Bill Thiebaut, representing self, testified. He submitted a map with background information (Attachment D) and spoke on the positives of the submitted map. Commissioners asked follow-up questions on the submitted map.

02:22:39 PM

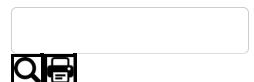
Ms. Angela Stevens, representing Colorado Springs NAACP Branch - 4001, testified. She shared statistics regarding people of color in the community and asked the commission to not stifle the voices of communities of color.

02:27:13 PM

Mr. Len Albertson, representing self, testified. He testified in support of the preliminary maps and asked that the Palmer Lake area be kept in state Senate District 12 if possible.

02:30:00 PM

Matthew Moeller, representing self, testified. He testified in support of keeping the west side of Colorado Springs whole.



02:33:14 PM

Jane Ard Smith, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous testimony to keep El Paso County whole and remove the eastern area of the county if needed.

02:37:12 PM

Ms. Kay James, representing self, testified. She testified on the importance of not diluting minority voices and keeping them from participating in the system.

02:39:43 PM

Rosemary Lytle, representing NAACP CO MT WY State Conference, testified. She testified against the preliminary staff plan for state House and Senate districts as she believes they dilute the voices of people of color. Commissioners asked for follow-up clarification on the area.

02:46:48 PM

Gordon Rick, representing self, testified. He testified on what communities in El Paso County should be excluded from CD5.

02:49:37 PM

Mr. Francois Raab, representing self, testified. He testified that I-25 works as a physical boundary but isn't a good community boundary for state House and Senate maps.

02:53:29 PM

Misty Plowright, representing herself, testified. She spoke about diluting votes on the House and Senate maps. She expressed her opinion that a southern Colorado congressional district makes sense. She responded to questions from the commission.

02:58:21 PM

Pastor Benjamin Anderson, representing Solid Rock Community Development Corporation, testified. He reiterated previous support for keeping state House District 17 together.

03:08:51 PM

Ms. Mary Pulvermacher, representing self, testified. She testified that Manitou Springs should not be split from Colorado Springs as they are a community of interest. Commissioner Perez asked a follow-up question on what should be used as district boundaries in the area for the state House and Senate maps.

03:15:02 PM

Chandra Wilkins, representing self, testified. She testified on the congressional map and on what areas in El Paso County may be able to fit well with surrounding areas.

03:17:55 PM

Reverend Patricia Dolin, representing Accompaniment and Sanctuary Coalition Colorado Springs, testified. She stated support for the maps submitted by Colorado Common Cause.

03:21:07 PM

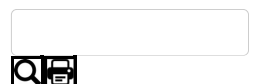
Ernest House, representing self, testified. He testified on the challenges and barriers that the Native American Indian population in the state face. Commissioners asked follow-up questions on receiving more input from the tribes in the state and how the drawing of maps would affect the tribes ability to work on federal legislation.

03:42:42 PM

Mr. Mike Snyder, representing El Paso County Farm Bureau, testified. He stated opposition of urban areas being linked to rural areas in a southern district and asked that the San Luis Valley be kept with the Eastern Plains.

03:49:12 PM

Mr. Chuck Broerman, representing self, testified. He testified on his experience as s county clerk having to redistrict commissioner districts. He submitted a packet of information (Attachment E).



04:01:08 PM

Mayor Don Wilson, representing self, testified. He repeated previous testimony to keep El Paso County as whole as possible in CD5.

04:05:10 PM

Colorado Springs City Councilmember Yolanda Avila, representing self, testified. She testified that the southeast area of Colorado Springs will have its minority population's voice diluted if it is drawn in districts with other parts of the city.

04:14:55 PM

Mr. Mark Grueskin, representing Fair Lines Colorado, testified. He spoke on the guidelines that the commission should be following based on Amendments Y and Z. Commissioners asked for clarification on his comments. Commissioner Leone asked for clarification on Mr. Grueskin's testimony that minority majority districts are required.

04:33:59

PM

The committee adjourned.



A

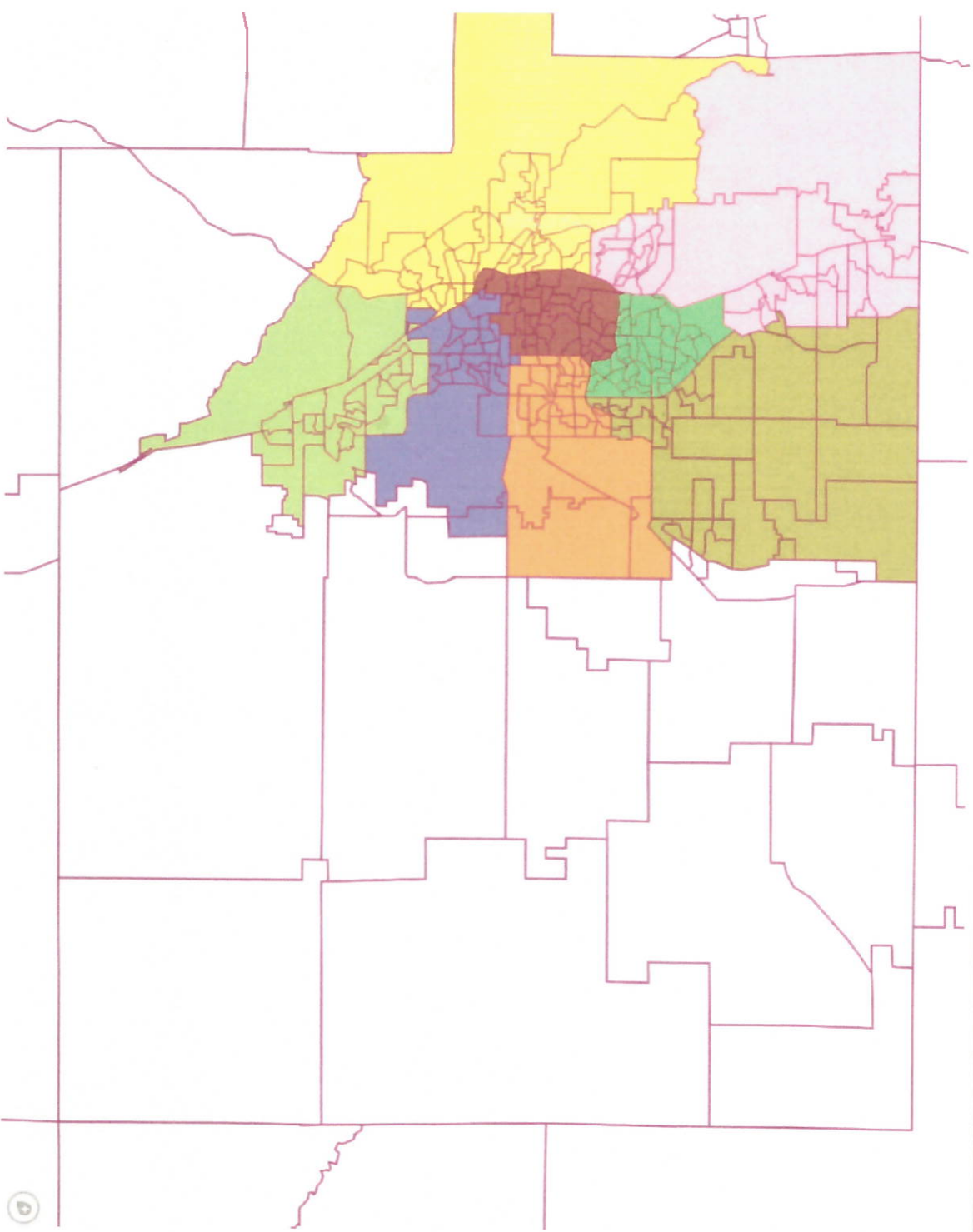
Landgraf House Map



 Map

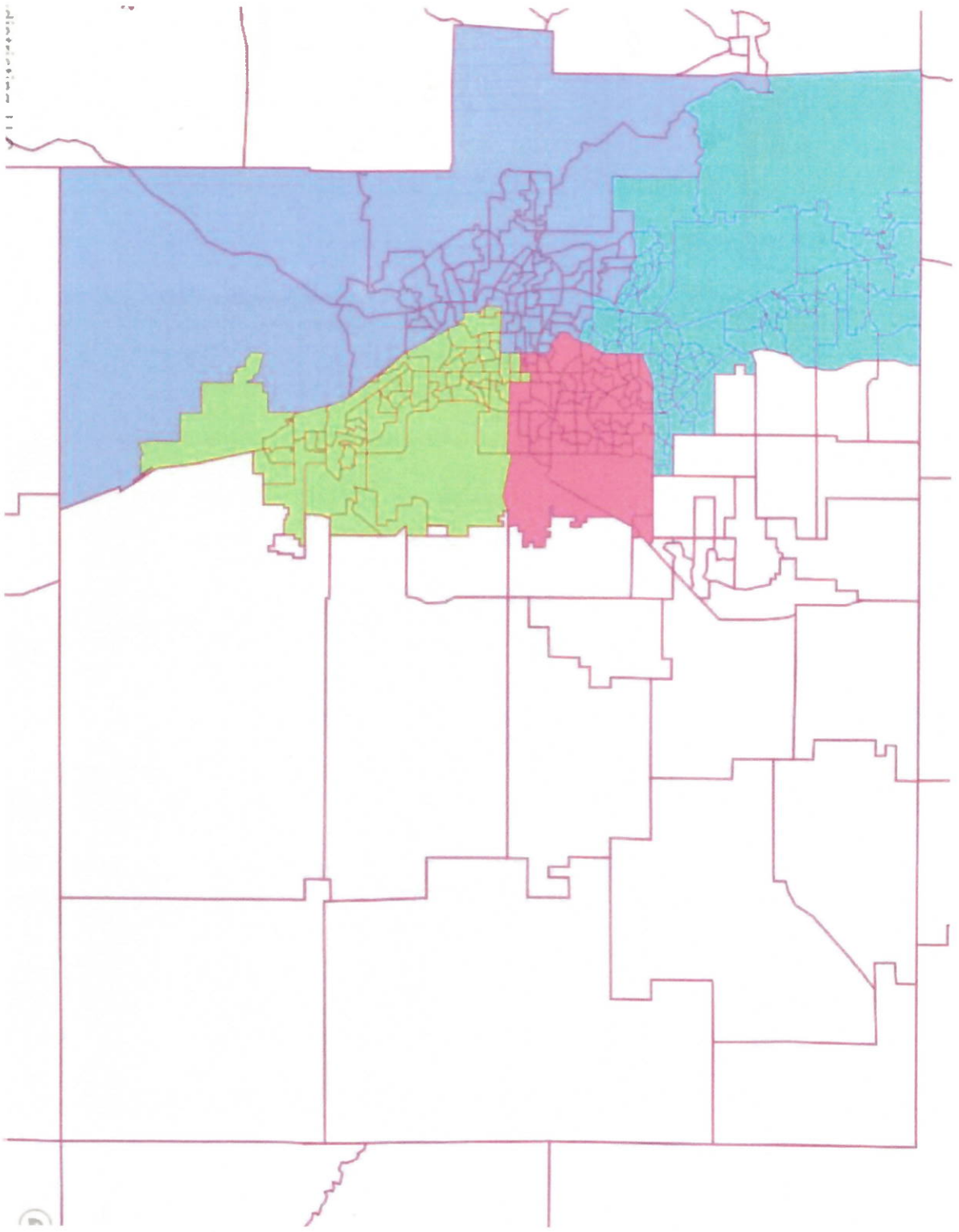
 Statistics

 Analyze



B

Stephens Senate Map Submission:

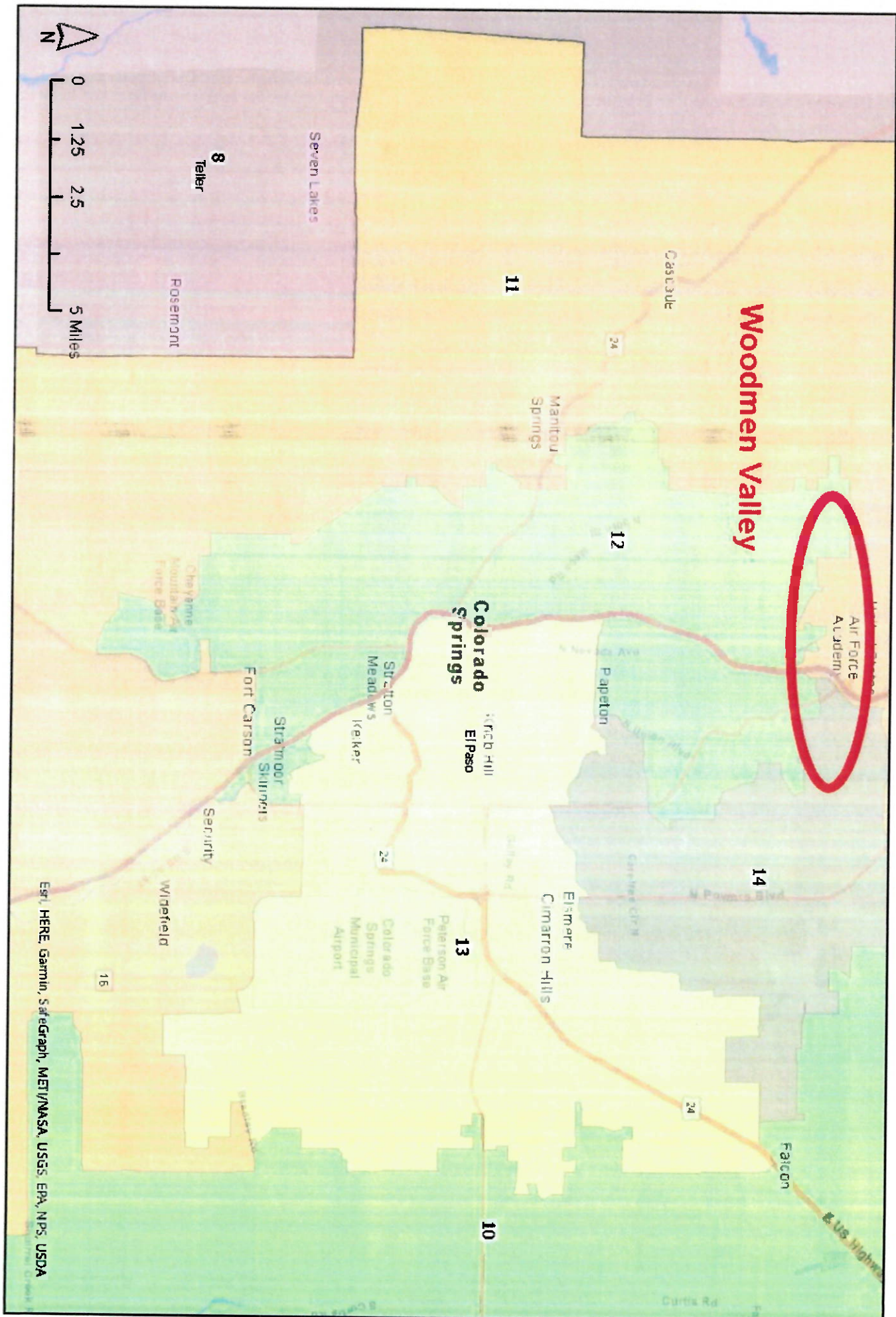


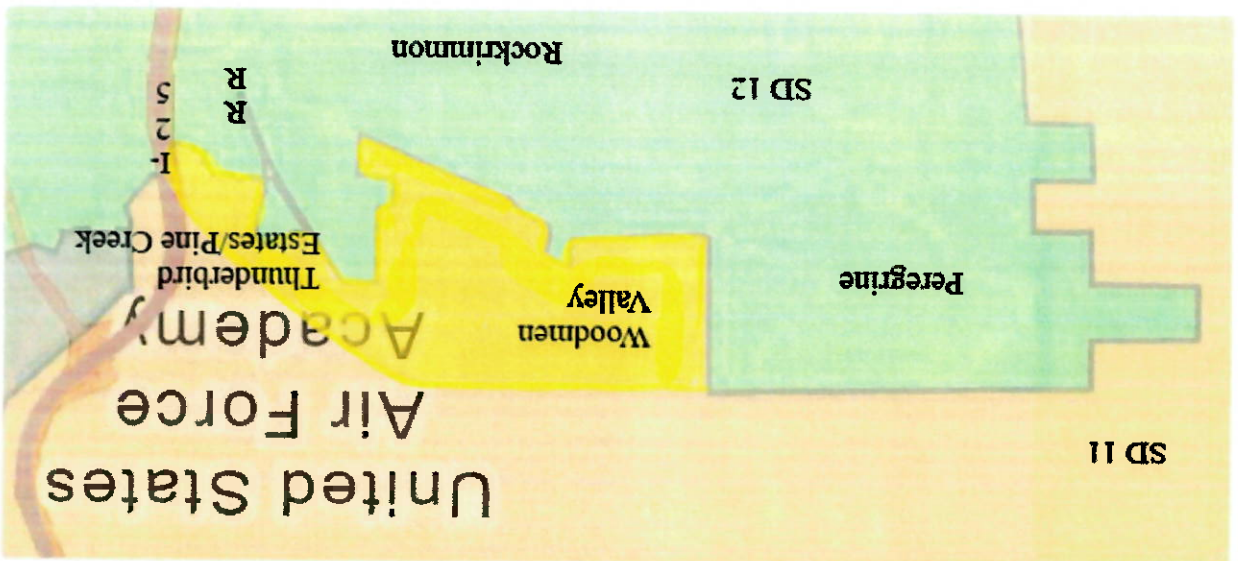


Colorado Department of Transportation
Rebuilding Communities

Colorado Senate Districts Colorado Springs Metro Area (Preliminary Map)

C





Question: The area highlighted shares much more community interest with development across the street (rockrimmon and Peregrine) than with development several miles away separated by the Air Force Academy.

Can this area be added to Senate District 12 rather than District 11?

Currently in the same senate District as those areas. Share road access, fire services, parks with these areas.

Colorado Senate Preliminary Plan Population Summary Report

District	Total Population	Target Population	Target Deviation	Target Deviation (%)
1	166,594	164,963	1,631	0.98
2	161,672	164,963	-3,291	-2.04
3	165,144	164,963	181	0.11
4	168,791	164,963	3,828	2.27
5	165,997	164,963	1,034	0.62
6	165,000	164,963	37	0.02
7	165,368	164,963	405	0.25
8	166,715	164,963	1,752	1.05
9	162,298	164,963	-2,665	-1.64
10	161,801	164,963	-3,162	-1.95
11	168,308	164,963	3,345	1.99
12	160,913	164,963	-4,050	-2.52
13	165,996	164,963	1,033	0.62
14	162,143	164,963	-2,820	-1.74
15	166,100	164,963	1,137	0.68
16	165,486	164,963	523	0.32
17	168,153	164,963	3,190	1.9
18	163,644	164,963	-1,319	-0.81
19	162,784	164,963	-2,179	-1.34
20	161,274	164,963	-3,689	-2.29
21	166,908	164,963	1,945	1.17
22	164,832	164,963	-131	-0.08
23	164,844	164,963	-119	-0.07
24	164,221	164,963	-742	-0.45
25	165,513	164,963	550	0.33
26	166,874	164,963	1,911	1.15
27	166,401	164,963	1,438	0.86
28	165,979	164,963	1,016	0.61
29	166,281	164,963	1,318	0.79
30	166,964	164,963	2,001	1.2
31	162,205	164,963	-2,758	-1.7
32	163,452	164,963	-1,511	-0.92
33	166,730	164,963	1,767	1.06
34	165,166	164,963	203	0.12
35	163,163	164,963	-1,800	-1.1
Total Population	5,773,714			
Mean Deviation:	1,728			
Mean Percent Deviation:	1.05			
Largest Positive Deviation:	3,828.13			
Largest Negative Deviation:	-4,050.29			
Overall Range in Deviation:	7,878.42			
Percentage:	4.78%			
With Proposed Changes				
D11 - 168,308 - 1,026 = 167,282				
d-12 - 160,913 + 1,026 = 161,939				
Change proposed KJW 8/28/2021				

Public comment was successfully created.

Name: Kevin Walker

Commission: legislative

Comment:

I live in unincorporated El Paso County in an area known as Woodmen Valley. (See uploaded map) It is located west of I-25, south of the Air Force Academy. It is an area of 3 - 5 acre lots; an area adjacent to ours (Thunderbird Estates/Pine Creek) is also part of my question. This area is projected to be placed in Senate District 11. I think we should be moved to Senate District 12 because our area relates much more to the areas of Rockrimmon and Peregrine than those in District 11. We access our properties through the areas to the South, we are bounded by the Air Force Academy on the North, our fire protection comes from the City also. If we are in District 11, we will be 5 - 6 miles from the nearest homes in District 11 which would be Manitou Springs or Briargate while the areas across the "street" would be in District 12. The population in District 12 is lower than in District 11 per the projections so there would be less discrepancy in those two Districts. There are 342 houses in this area (data from the Woodmen Valley Fire Protection District). At an average of 3 per unit, that would reduce SD 11 and increase SD 12 by 1,026. It appears that the line drawn between the two districts is the city limit line, but I don't believe that our interests from a state perspective are different from our neighbors in Colorado Springs. I will speak to the Commission on August 28 on this matter.

[Back](#)

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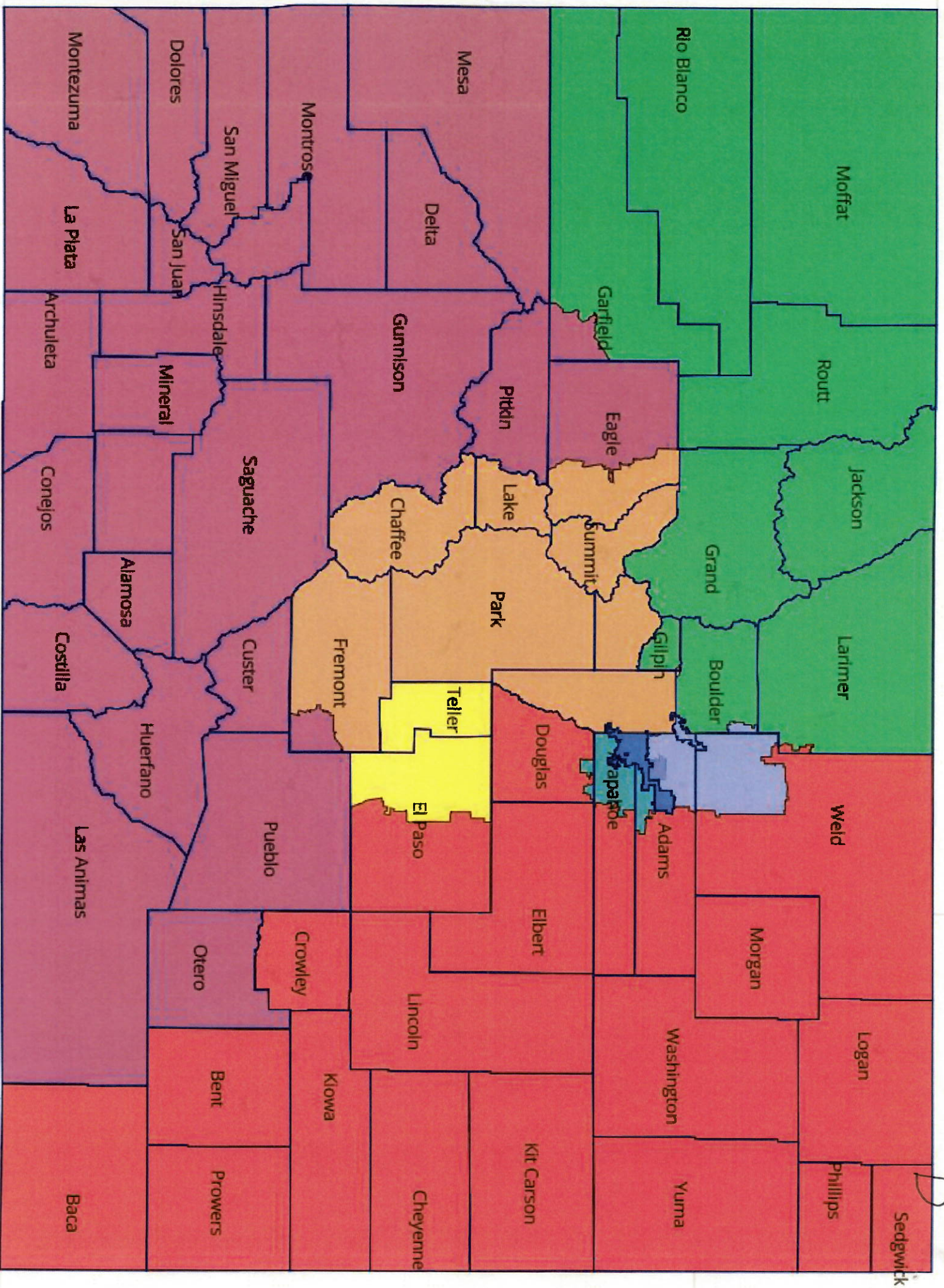
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ID	Population		Shapes		Partisan Lean			Demographics (VAP)							
	Total	+/-			Dem	Rep	OTH	Total	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	Pacific
Un	0				0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1	721,714	0.00%			76.35%	19.91%	3.73%	586,404	58.78%	41.22%	24.46%	9.67%	5.24%	3.34%	0.36%
2	721,714	0.00%			60.45%	35.20%	4.35%	582,157	80.08%	19.92%	10.89%	1.61%	4.44%	2.50%	0.25%
3	721,715	0.00%			44.50%	51.09%	4.41%	571,778	69.87%	30.13%	22.87%	1.67%	1.48%	4.76%	0.25%
4	721,714	0.00%			34.46%	61.50%	4.04%	538,285	75.59%	24.41%	15.56%	2.29%	3.83%	2.84%	0.29%
5	721,714	0.00%			38.88%	55.94%	5.17%	555,203	69.54%	30.46%	15.20%	7.51%	4.84%	3.47%	0.75%
6	721,714	0.00%			56.61%	39.28%	4.11%	551,737	58.41%	41.59%	19.65%	11.93%	8.00%	3.02%	0.49%
7	721,715	0.00%			52.55%	42.84%	4.60%	584,528	77.92%	22.08%	13.53%	1.82%	3.67%	3.12%	0.23%
8	721,714	0.00%			51.84%	43.39%	4.77%	539,484	58.31%	41.69%	31.68%	2.41%	5.09%	3.78%	0.29%
	721,714	0.00%			52.09%	43.52%	4.39%	566,697	68.65%	31.35%	19.16%	4.86%	4.56%	3.35%	0.36%

August 27, 2021

Comments To: Colorado Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission

From: Bill Thiebaut, Pueblo Citizen

Re: Congressional Map Prepared by Thiebaut 8/20/21 & Thiebaut2 Congressional Map (8/27/21)

Background: Initial and Modified Maps

At the August 20, 2021 hearing in Pueblo, I presented a hard copy of an initial congressional map with statistics for your consideration entitled "Map Prepared by Thiebaut 8/20/21." These comments elaborate upon my testimony about that initial map and comment on the Thiebaut2 Map, which I have submitted online along with statistics/analysis and these comments.

The Thiebaut2 Map was prepared after giving thought to improving my initial map.

Goal of the Maps: Fair and Effective Representation

Because members of Congress represent people not places, any line drawing should ensure that present needs, and future ones, will be met by connecting people to representatives who will represent the people's interests.

Theme of the Maps: Adjacent Areas Reliant on Each Other

Adjacent areas of the state are increasingly reliant on each other whether an urbanized city or rural region.

As population increases along the I-25 Corridor, it becomes imperative that a representative be able to advocate for the suburban, rural areas adjacent to an urbanized city, and vice versa. Population along the Eastern Plains and Western Slope falls below the required population in order for those regions to form their own congressional district.

Constitutional Criteria:

Precise Mathematical Population Equality. Thiebaut² has adjusted the initial map to “down-to-the-person” (down to one). Please refer to the statistics.

Contiguity. The entire area of each congressional district is connected.

Voting Rights Act. Notably, the VRA is incorporated into the Colorado Constitution. Thiebaut² improves upon my initial map by rendering as many districts as possible that could have minority representation. These are districts where a “racial color, or language minority class” does not have less opportunity “to participate in the political process and elect representative of their choice.” The potential opportunity minority districts include: CD 1 (41.22%); CD 6 (41.59%); and CD 8 (41.69%). Please note: Hispanic opportunity occurs in three districts: CD 1 (24.46%); CD 3 (22.87%); and CD 8 (31.68%).

Communities of Interest. Identifying communities of interest is critical to fair and effective representation. Colo. Const. art V, section 44. The maps recognize substantial shared public policy concerns that might be the subject of federal legislation. All districts ensure that present and future needs of a congressional district are met by a responsive and accountable representative. *Hall v. Moreno* (2012).

Let me take a moment to comment more specifically about communities of interest:

All of Colorado faces energy development; protection of natural resources and lands; and growth. But recall the theme of the maps: Adjacent areas of the state are increasingly reliant on each other whether an urbanized city or rural region. Rural regions take on the role of a more suburban area – Western Slope and Eastern Plains counties link to urbanized areas. With that in mind:

CD 1 keeps Denver whole for the most part so a representative can focus on its needs – regional and international commerce, transportation, housing, health care and social services to name a few.

CD 2s interests include education, research, tourism, and public lands.

CD 3 is home to significant public lands, an agricultural economy that is distinct from the Eastern Plains, and significant river basins. Tourism, wildlife and recreation link the district. And there are multi-generational Hispanics, and families, living in the San Luis Valley and Pueblo. CD 4 recognizes the needs of a particular kind of agriculture, water quality and quantity, climate and energy policy as well as transportation.

CD 5 keeps in mind military installations, veterans’ affairs and the defense industry.

CDs 6, 7 and 8 have unique, similar priorities such as transportation (bus, rail); arts and culture; and public health that link the metro areas. Specifically:

CD 6 includes the VA Medical Center, immigration, commerce, health care and aerospace.

CD 7s communities of interest include the Denver Federal Center, education and the study of space resources – Colorado School of Mines and Red Rocks Community College – and transportation, including rail corridors. Central mountain suburban communities are reliant on urban services.

The new district in North Metro, CD 8, is, and will continue to be, fast growing in the state and nation. Hispanics account for more and more of the population with common interests – education, employment, health care. It will have to harmonize oil and gas development with schools, commerce, housing, social services and air quality.

Political Subdivisions. Where possible whole political subdivisions were respected, including city, county and special district boundaries.

Compactness. Each map is “as compact as reasonably possible.”

Competitiveness. This was maximized to the extent possible. In fact, it is not dissimilar to the preliminary map. I submit that a 4-4 split does not equal competitiveness. But the maps could be 4-4 depending upon the persons running in each congressional district.

Final Thoughts: Pueblo and the San Luis Valley

At the 8/20/21 hearing I testified that Pueblo and the San Luis Valley should remain together as a community of interest, and that this region should be in CD 3 and not be attached to CD 4 as it is in the preliminary map. Here’s why.

The urbanized city of Greeley (and its adjacent area) is fast growing and booming – not just in the state but in the country – with a 30% increase in population in the last decade! According to some projections, it will experience a continued, significant population increase.

I offer that Greeley’s energy policy is distinct – oil and gas development will intersect with neighborhoods, schools, commerce, housing, social services and air quality. Pueblo has a vision of a new energy economy – efforts necessary to slow and eliminate climate change. Solar and wind energy will play a role in Pueblo’s commitment to run on 100% renewable energy by 2035. Our representative must be able to advocate for a climate and energy policy which protects and invests in Colorado’s green energy corridor.

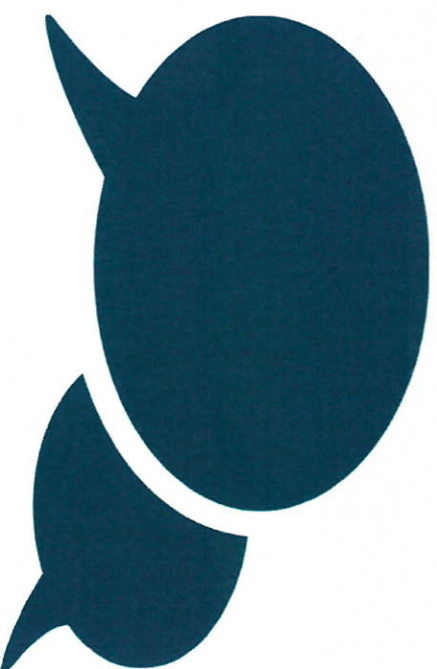
The San Luis Valley and Pueblo County have like concerns: education, access to hospitals and health care, water rights, the future of its kind of agriculture, and unique transportation needs. San Luis Valley communities can be older than the state.

2021 Redistricting

Chuck Broerman
El Paso County Clerk & Recorder
August 28, 2021

Redistricting - Proposal Process

- May 25 – presented three redistricting proposals
 - Started 30-day public comment period, which concluded last week (June 24)
- Our office hosted two open houses (June 8 & 22) during which citizens could view the maps and discuss questions and concerns with the Clerk
- We received 266 comments
 - Email (164)
 - Phone (12)
 - In-person (3)
 - Form (87)





Redistricting Goals

- Comply with the Colorado Constitution and law
- Reasonably maintain equal population while anticipating future growth
- Appropriately align representation for areas affected by natural disaster, such as the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires
- Preserve key features/communities of interest for each district & create districts that are geographically identifiable



2017 Redistricting Option 3

Commissioner Districts



Affected Precincts

House Districts

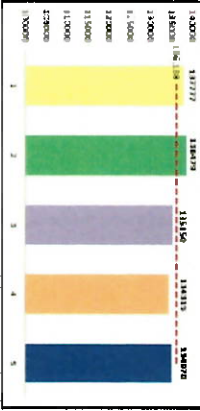
Senate Districts

Precincts

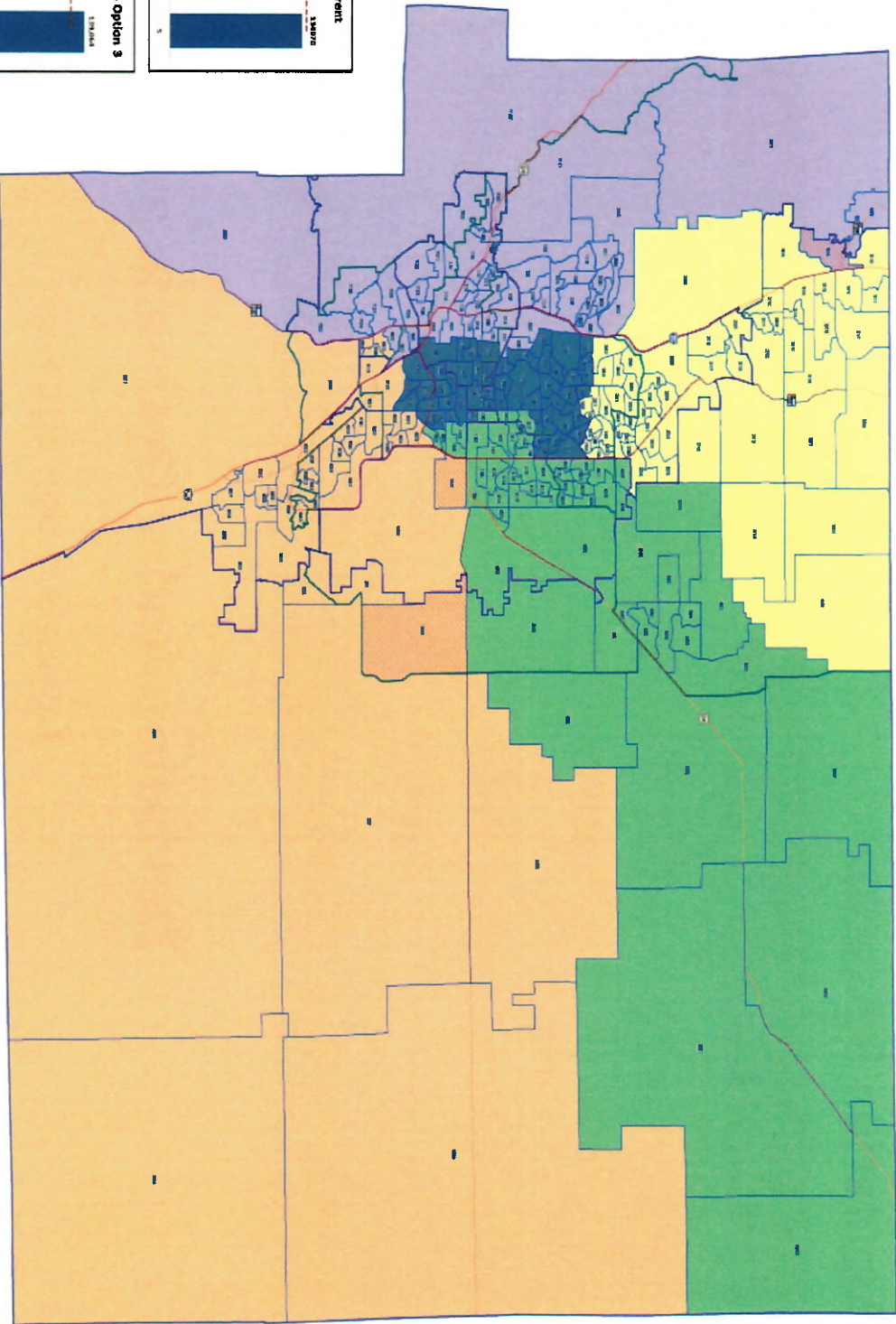
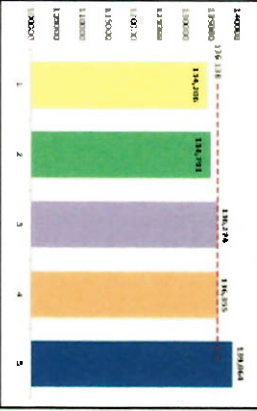
Highways

NOTE: Precincts are shown in black outlines. Precincts that are affected by the redistricting plan are shown in a lighter shade of the color of the district they are in. Precincts that are not affected by the redistricting plan are shown in a darker shade of the color of the district they are in.

Commissioner District Population - Current



Commissioner District Population - Option 3



Current

District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation
1	13,777	1,029	3.28%
2	13,879	2,351	5.72%
3	13,156	288	0.77%
4	13,813	2,471	6.19%
5	13,870	1,168	0.82%
Total Pop.	68,395		
Options:	13,156		

Option 3

District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation
1	13,777	1,029	3.28%
2	13,879	2,351	5.72%
3	13,156	288	0.77%
4	13,813	2,471	6.19%
5	13,870	1,168	0.82%
Total Pop.	68,395		
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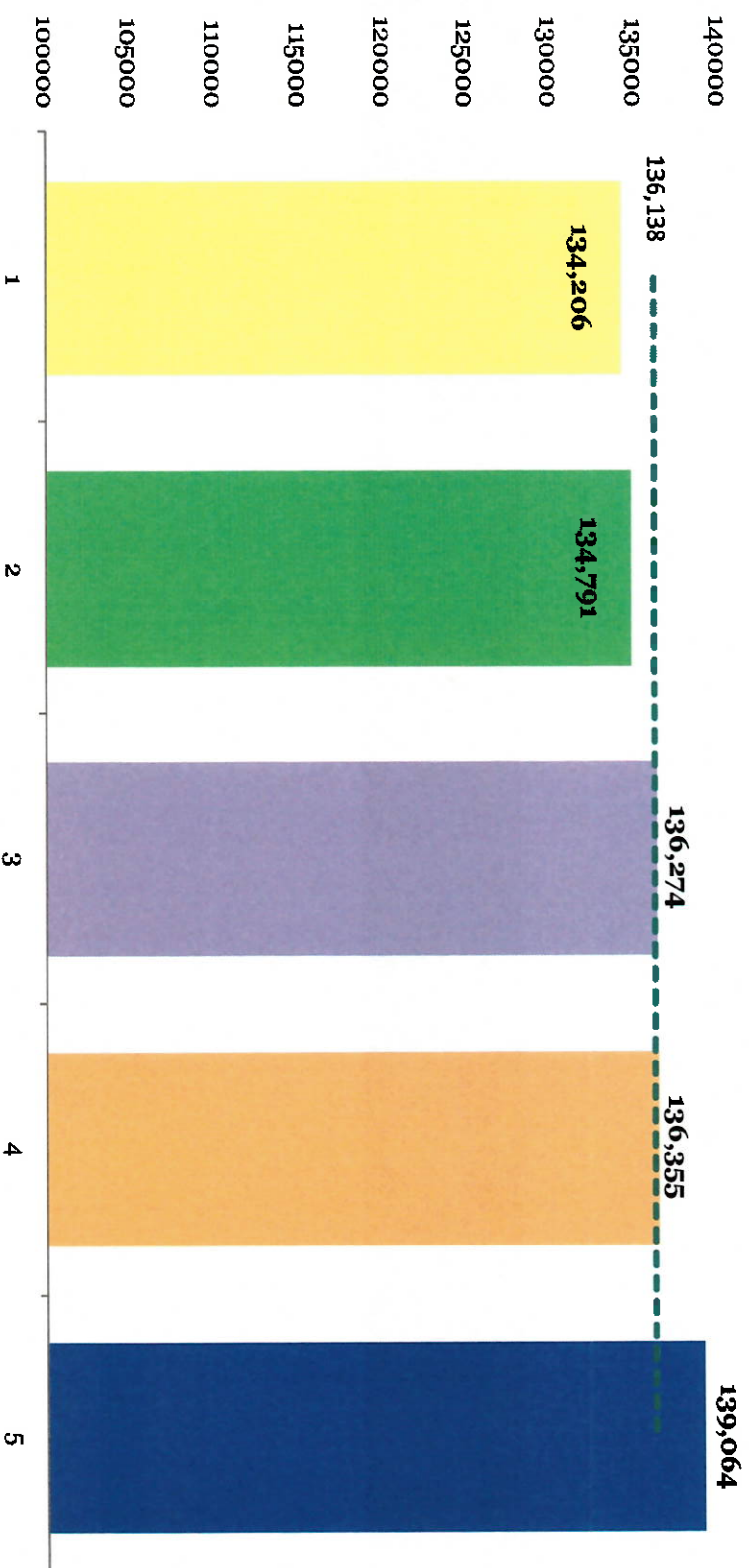
Precincts Moved - Option 3			
Precinct	From	To	Population
104	1	5	2,245
304 (new)	1	3	11,24
320 (new)	2	4	213
326 (new)	2	4	10,30
381 (new)	2	5	10,84

An unincorporated area of Precinct 432 was split at Highway 96 and combined with Precinct 630.

An unincorporated precinct of Precinct 423 was split. An additional 94 precincts were added with Precinct 423.

Chart Outline

Commissioner District Population - Option 3





Public Comments

- 2013 – 1 comment
- 2015 – 19 comments
- 2017 – 266 comments
 - Citizens engaged with such high volume that for the presentation, we sought to summarize major points of feedback, and simply tally the “votes” for different options
 - The official collection of public comment is available on our website

Addendum

Statutory Guidance Continued

C.R.S. 30-10-306 (3) and (5)

(3) When a board of county commissioners determines to change the boundaries of commissioner districts or when new districts are created, such changes or additions shall be made only in odd-numbered years and, if made, shall be completed by July 1 of such year, except in cases of changes resulting from changes in county boundaries.

(5) No less than thirty days before adopting any resolution to change the boundaries of commissioner districts or create new commissioner districts, the board of county commissioners shall hold a public hearing on the proposed district boundaries.